Global Youth Unemployment: History, Governance and Policy

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‘Rarely has a study of global youth unemployment so adeptly combined an empirically-grounded scrutiny of its levels and trends, with a conceptually nuanced analysis of its political economy drivers at multiple scales. Fergusson and Yeates make a compelling case for seeing endemic youth unemployment as an issue of grave social injustice—one that supply-side palliative approaches have patently failed to address, and which is in urgent need of integrated employment, social protection and macroeconomic policies backed by a more cohesive system of social and economic governance at the global level.’

Shahra Razavi, International Labour Organization, Switzerland

‘This is a timely assessment of a global crisis that has been greatly worsened by the Covid pandemic slump. Youth make up a large percentage of the global precariat, and as the authors convincingly demonstrate, their unemployment has long been huge, with enormous global social and economic consequences. Unless income security can be provided on a worldwide basis there will be justified social unrest.’

Guy Standing, SOAS University of London, UK

‘Youth unemployment, as a social policy and social movement issue, now has its definitive treatment in this magnificent book by Ross Fergusson and Nicola Yeates. Going beyond methodological nationalism it outlines lucidly the causes of endemic youth unemployment on a global scale. It calls for a Global Compact for Youth Employment to address the scandalous fact that nearly half of the world’s unemployed are between 15 and 24 years of age. This is historically grounded, policy relevant, critical analysis at its best.’

Ronaldo Munck, Dublin City University, Ireland

‘Global Youth Unemployment is a fascinating, important and timely book. Fergusson and Yeates focus on the injustice of youth unemployment as a threat to young people’s social and economic welfare at a global level. This perspective, and the call to action that concludes the book, is original and impressive. It will be an important book for students and scholars in social policy, political science, sociology and youth studies.’

Robert MacDonald, University of Huddersfield, UK

‘Fergusson and Yeates’ distinctive voice narrates a timely diagnosis of an acute but understudied phenomenon, as viewed through historical and contemporary lenses. This is a book of big ideas that will set the standard for future analyses of global youth unemployment.’

Heidi Gottfried, Wayne State University, Detroit, USA

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